

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-4 remain in the application. Claims 5-7 are new.
2. Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the indication that claim 4 is allowed.
3. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Aoki. (JP 408207293A).

Aoki fails to disclose or suggest a pivotable carriage assembly, secured to the wiper element and adapted to rotate the wiper and thereby bend the free end portion of the wiper element. While Aoki describes a pivoting arm 15, the arm is not secured to rotate the wiper. Furthermore, Aoki has no disclosure related to bending the free end of the wiper against a housing.

In the present invention, a printhead cleaning station has a pivotable carriage assembly adapted to rotate a wiper and bend the free end portion of the wiper element. A hook element engages the pivotable carriage and rotates and bends the free end portion of the wiper against a housing of the station to remove ink from the wiper.

There is no disclosure related to this type of arrangement in Aoki.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 3 are patentable over Aoki.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and are patentable because Aoki fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1.

5. Claims 5-7 are new and are directed to a cleaning station and a method for cleaning a printhead.

The cleaning station includes a first area in which ink is adapted to be forced through nozzles, a second area including a plurality of wipers adapted to wipe an inkjet head and a self cleaning mechanism for the plurality of wipers, a third area in which ink is forced through the nozzle for a second time, and a forth area of the cleaning station in which a cap is positioned on the printhead.

The method includes positioning the printhead in a first area of a cleaning station where ink is forced through nozzles of the printhead, positioning the printhead over a second area of the cleaning station where a plurality of wipers wipe the printhead, positioning the printhead over a third area of the cleaning station where ink is forced through the nozzles for a second time, and positioning the printhead over a forth area of of the cleaning station where a cap is positioned on the printhead to seal the nozzles.

The prior art references fail to disclose or suggest the station and method claimed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$950.00 is enclosed for a 3 month extension of time and on account of the additional claim fees.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$950.00 for a 3 month extension of time and to charge payment for any other fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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11/28/03
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